DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 037 098 EM 007 924

AUTHOR	Nagel, Charles
TITLE	Meeting Critical Health Needs through "Systems Approach".
INSTITUTION	Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools, Calif.
SPONS AGENCY	Office of Education (DHEW), Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE	Mar 70
NOTE	4p.
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF-$0.25 HC-$0.30
DESCRIPTORS	*Diagnostic Teaching, Elementary Education, *Health Education, Interinstitutional Cooperation, Secondary Education, *Systems Approach

ABSTRACT

Project Quest, "New Designs for Innovative Approaches to Health Instruction through Inter-District Planning", is a comprehensive health instruction program (K-12) which was developed on a systems approach. Five major student objectives were established: (1) physical health, (2) mental health, (3) social health, (4) community health, and (5) critical health areas. These goals were arranged for all grade levels; teachers are encouraged to use pretests, survey instruments, and diagnostic materials to determine the health knowledge of each student, to then select appropriate goals, and to administer a posttest at the end of instruction for each goal. (SP)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

ED037098

MEETING CRITICAL HEALTH NEEDS THROUGH "SYSTEMS APPROACH"

Charles Nagel *

Many school districts are concerned about their critical health problems, such as drug abuse, mental health, smoking, alcohol consumption, promiscuity, venereal disease, prejudices, and others. The schools have discovered that fragmented coverage has been time consuming, expensive, and difficult to evaluate. Integration and/or correlation of these health problems into other subject areas have been tried and, in most cases, found meaningless.

It has been suggested by many sources that a new approach be taken to meet the health needs of young people.

In the annual report of the 1969 Los Angeles County Grand Jury, the following recommendations were made:

> "Schools must take a new approach to health education, beginning in kindergarten. The aim should be total involvement of each child to help him solve his own problems."
>
> "Demands for better drug-abuse education come from the entire community. A realistic approach, rather than scare tactics, included in the sequential health education program, Project Quest, is a major development."
>
> "Create a health education curriculum patterned after Project Quest."

The California Council on Children and Youth at their conference, "Looking to the 70's," defined the need for health education. Two recommendations were made:

> "Health education should begin in the first grade and continue each year."
>
> "The school could play a much larger role in health education."

* Project QUEST Director, County of Los Angeles, Superintendent of Schools
1851 So. Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90006

EM007424

Governor Reagan, in his Annual State Message to the 1970 Legislature regarding "War on Drug Abuse in California," mentioned that we should have a comprehensive health instruction approach in all grades and that he will ask the State Department of Education to develop the program.

A resolution adopted by a Joint Committee on Health Problems in Education of the National Education Association and the American Medical Association stated:

> "...that schools make every effort to teach all important aspects of health with the proper emphasis and to discourage an overemphasis on popular problems at the expense of a total balanced health education program for children and youth."

Four years ago representatives from several school districts in Los Angeles County and from the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools Office met to talk about the critical health problems facing their districts. They found they had similar concerns and decided to explore them together. The representatives developed the idea of inter-district cooperation aimed at a whole range of sequencing, pacing, interpretation, and evaluation of a health instruction program.

Questions arose regarding time, money, personnel, and how a program could be developed that would emphasize desirable changes in the learner rather than mere mastery of knowledge and concepts. A proposal titled Project Quest was developed and submitted to the Los Angeles County Schools, PACE Title III Elementary and Secondary Education Act Center. It was approved on July 17, 1967.

Project Quest: "New Designs for Innovative Approaches to Health Instruction Through Inter-District Planning," is now completing its third year. It has developed a qualitative and

comprehensive health instruction program for grades K through twelve. Nine teacher guides, pre- and post-tests, and supplementary learning experience materials, have been piloted and evaluated by classroom teachers, school nurses, school physicians, and administrators in five unified school districts, namely, Downey, Duarte, El Rancho, Inglewood, and Torrance in Los Angeles County.

Systems Approach Used

This health instruction program was constructed on the "system analysis approach" which had as its mission a Health-Educated Individual and consisted of five major goals:

1. Cares for the Human Body (physical health)
2. Develops a Mature Personality (mental health)
3. Builds Satisfying Human Relationships (social health)
4. Assumes a Responsible Health Role in Society (community health)
5. Copes with Contemporary Health Problems (critical health areas)

Within each goal are two or three sub-goals or functions; the sub-goals are further divided into measurable objectives. These goals and objectives are arranged for all grade levels and are adaptable to all types of students in any community.

Innovative Teaching Approach

Each teacher is encouraged to find out the health needs and interests of his class through pre-tests, survey, discussion, and analysis before instruction commences. Pre-tests, survey instruments, and diagnostic materials for each guide are available for every grade level.

Upon determining the health knowledge, attitudes, and practices of his students, the teacher proceeds to select appropriate goals, objectives, and learning experiences for class instruction. Once the goal has been taught, the teacher gives a post-test to determine the degree of achievement of the class and of each student.

Dissemination Plans

Many school districts in Los Angeles County and neighboring counties have indicated an interest in looking over the Project's products and teaching approach. Due to interest in a Planning, Programming, Budgeting System and the ever challenging aspects of using measurable objectives in their schools, some districts have found the Project's material useful as a model for health instruction and other subjects.

School districts desirous of offering a comprehensive approach in health instruction rather than fragmented coverage of drugs and other critical health problems may want to preview the designs set by Project Quest. If any school district is interested, it should contact Dr. Charles Nagel, Director of Project Quest, 1851 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90006, for further information.